

## REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action mailed April 10, 2006, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration. In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-17 and 19-23 were rejected and claims 6, 11 and 18 were objected to. By this amendment, claims 1, 13 and 22 have been amended and claim 24 has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-22 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-17 and 19-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Maxim Data Sheet 19-2735, Rev 0, 1/03 in view of Suessmilch. This rejection is respectfully traversed, as the combination does not teach the invention recited in the amended independent claims.

Amended independent claim 1 recites a power supply system comprising:

a power supply;

a load coupled to the power supply via a power supply line to receive a voltage therefrom;

a circuit protection device comprising:

at least one switch device coupled between the power supply and the load on the power supply line;

a first controller coupled to the at least one switch for:

A. monitoring current flow through the at least one switch;

B. maintaining the at least one switch in an ON state while current flows through the at least one switch in a first direction; and

C. causing the at least one switch to toggle to an OFF state if current flowing through the at least one switch flows in a second direction; and

a second controller coupled to the power supply line between the power supply and the at least one switch and coupled to the first controller for sensing an amount of current flowing between the power supply and the at least one switch and causing the first controller to toggle the at least one switch to the OFF state when the current sensed by the second controller exceeds a reference value.

Applicants assert that, even if the combination suggested by the examiner was proper, which applicant maintains it is not, it does not teach or suggest the invention recited in amended independent claim 1. Among other features, the combination does not teach that the second controller causes the first controller to toggle the at least one switch to the OFF state when the current sensed by the second controller exceeds a reference value.

Accordingly, applicants assert that amended independent claim 1 is allowable over the combination suggested by the examiner and requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12 depend from amended independent claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as amended independent claim 1.

Amended independent claim 13 recites a power supply system comprising:

- a power supply;

- a load coupled to the power supply via a power supply line to receive a voltage therefrom;

- at least one switch device coupled between the power supply and the load on the power supply line;

- a first controller coupled to the at least one switch for causing the at least one switch to toggle to an OFF state if current flowing through the at least one switch flows in a direction opposite a normal operating current direction; and

- a second controller coupled to the power supply line between the power supply and the at least one switch and coupled to the first controller for sensing an amount of current flowing between the power supply and the at least one switch and causing the first controller to toggle the at least one switch to the OFF state when the current sensed by the second controller exceeds a reference value.

Applicants assert that, even if the combination suggested by the examiner was proper, it does not teach or suggest the invention recited in amended independent claim 13. Among other features, the combination does not teach that the second controller causes the first controller to toggle the at least one switch to the OFF state when the current sensed by the second controller exceeds a reference value.

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Accordingly, applicants assert that amended independent claim 13 is allowable over the combination suggested by the examiner and requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 14-17 and 18-21 depend from amended independent claim 13 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as amended independent claim 13.

Amended independent claim 22 recites a method of providing fault protection in a power supply system, the method comprising:

A. monitoring, with a first controller, a current flowing from a power supply to a load via a power supply line;

B. toggling, with the first controller, a switch device coupled between the power supply and the load in the power supply line from an ON state to an OFF state when the current begins to flow from the load to the power supply;

C. monitoring, with a second controller, the amplitude of the current flowing in the power supply line; and

D. when the amplitude of the current in the power supply line exceeds a reference value, the second controller causing the first controller to toggle the switch device from the ON state to the OFF state.

Applicants assert that, even if the combination suggested by the examiner was proper, it does not teach or suggest the invention recited in amended independent claim 22. Among other features, the combination does not teach that the second controller causing the first controller to toggle the switch device from the ON state to the OFF state.

Accordingly, applicants assert that amended independent claim 22 is allowable over the combination suggested by the examiner and requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 24 has been canceled.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the examiners indication that claims 6, 11 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, since the claims from which these claims depend are allowable, applicant asserts that amending these claims is not necessary.

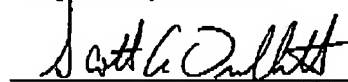
Based on the foregoing, applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-22 are allowable over the art of record and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this application.

In the event the Patent Office deems personal contact desirable in disposition of this matter, the Office is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (508) 293-7835.

Please charge any fees occasioned by this submission to Deposit Account No. 05-0889.

Dated: 8/10/07

Respectfully submitted,



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